



# NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **FIRE RESTRICTIONS SET FOR PECOS DISTRICT – BLM**

**Includes: Chaves, Lincoln, Eddy & Lea Counties**

Warm temperatures, combined with low moisture, have increased fire danger and brought on the beginning of “fire season” early this year. As a result, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is enforcing fire restrictions, effective January 10, to help ensure safety, prevent wildfires, facilitate fire-suppression and support state and local agencies as they handle the early onslaught of fires.

These fire restrictions cover all BLM-managed public lands in the nine counties that make up BLMs Pecos District. They include: Quay, Curry, Roosevelt, Guadalupe, De Baca, Chaves, Lincoln, Eddy & Lea counties. Chaves, Eddy, Lincoln and Lea counties currently have the highest fire danger.

The Fire Prevention Order was signed today by Field Managers Eddie Bateson and Tony Herrell for the Roswell and Carlsbad Field Offices. The following restrictions are currently in place:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a campfire, charcoal or wood stove/grill except within a developed recreation site or improved site.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed, designated recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- The use of all fireworks.
- Operating chainsaw with out prior authorization.

**EXEMPTIONS:** Only the following exemptions to the above prohibitions are allowed for this special order:

Persons with a permit authorizing the activity.

Persons using petroleum/LPG fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices is allowed.

Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted BLM permit.



[www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov)

A federal, state, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

“These restrictions will help prevent wildfires throughout the duration of the current high fire-danger conditions,” said Field Office Manager Eddie Bateson. “They also allow us to best assist our state and local counterparts in their fire suppression efforts.”

Violators may be fined up to \$1,000, and/or imprisoned not more than 12 months.

For more information contact the BLM at 505-627-0272, or check out these websites:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swainfo/firerestrictions/swa\\_restrictions\\_nm.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swainfo/firerestrictions/swa_restrictions_nm.htm) -- New Mexico

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swainfo/firerestrictions/swa\\_restrictions\\_closures.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swainfo/firerestrictions/swa_restrictions_closures.htm) -- New Mexico & Arizona

*DEFINITIONS: The following definitions are cited for this special order:*

*Restriction: A limitation on activity or use.*

*Campfire: A fire, not within any building, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a vehicle, which is not used for cooking, branding, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or aesthetic purposes. Campfires are open fires, usually built on the ground, from native fuels or charcoal, including charcoal grills.*

*Developed Recreation Site: An area that has been improved or developed for recreation. A developed recreation site is signed as an agency-owned campground or picnic area.*

*Improved Site: An area that has been cleared and has an established fire barrier that restricts fire spread. These areas also include improvements such as picnic tables and/or toilets.*

*Permit: A written document issued by an authorized representative to specifically authorize an otherwise prohibited act.*